

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026

Hickory, NC 28603

MINUTES

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GHMPO)

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TCC)

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026 @ 1:00 PM In-person meeting and via Zoom

Present			**Absent**		
First Name	**Last Name**	**Representing**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Representing**
Daniel	Cobb	Town of Granite Falls	Michael	Berley	City of Morganton
John	Marshall	City of Hickory	Patrick	Reach	Alexander County
Blake	Wright	Town of Maiden	Brian	Burgess	Alexander/Taylorsville
Erik	Schlichting	City of Conover	Patrick	Creech	Alexander County
Laurie	LoCicero	Catawba County	Randy	Feirabend	Town of Cajah's Mtn
Wendy	Smith	Town of Morganton	Hannah	Williams	City of Lenior
Rick	Justice	Town of Rhodhiss	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Bradley	Kirkley	Burke County	Randy	Williams	City of Newton
Steve	Miller	City of Hickory	Nathan	Hester	Town of Taylorsville
Wilson	Elliott	City of Hickory	Shelly	Stevens	Caldwell County
Caroline	Kone	City of Hickory	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Karen	Dickerson	City of Hickory	Danny	Hipps	Town of Catawba
Michael	Rapp	Town of Valdese	Wayne	Rash	Caldwell County
Patrick	Dickinson	City of Morganton	Jon	Hogan	City of Lenoir
Bryce	Carter	City of Claremont	Bill	Carroll	Town of Drexel

Greg	Wilson	Town of Granite Falls	Amy	Bucknam	Alexander County
Jon	Greer	Town of Hudson	Logan	Shook	Town of Hildebran
Dustin	Milsap	Town of Sawmills	Bonnie	Caudie	Town of Gamewell

WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST	**NC DOT STAFF**
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG	Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12
Casey Fullbright – WPCOG	Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD
Daniel Odom - WPCOG	Sean Sizemore – Div 11
Rusty Bost – Labella Associates	Travis Chrisawn – Div 11
	Brandon Whitaker – Div 11
	Anson Merrithew – Div 11
	Travis Jordan – Div 12
	Dough Philips Div 13
	Stephan Sparks – Div 13
	Thomas Smith – Div 13
	Steven Cannon – Div 13
	Nikki Elsheimer - IMD

Call to Order/ Introductions: Vice Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM and welcomed all present. Introductions were conducted, followed by the Introduction of online viewers.

Action Items:

I. Approval of Consent Agenda: Vice Chair Wright called for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes of the February 25, 2026 meeting and the Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release. Upon a motion made by Mr. Schlichting and a second by Mrs. Smith, the Committee unanimously approved the consent agenda.

II. Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval: Ms. Ritchie presented the Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Schlichting, the committee unanimously approved the revisions.

III. Transit State of Good Repairs Performance Measures: Ms. Ritchie presented the Transit State of Good Repairs Performance Measures. Upon a motion made by Mr. Greer and seconded by Mr. Schlichting, the committee unanimously adopted the measures.

IV. Local Input Point Methodology for Prioritization 8: Mr. Fullbright presented the Local Input Point Methodology for Prioritization 8. The committee reached consensus to approve the methodology.

V. Resolution of Support for IMD Multimodal Planning Grant-City of Hickory: Ms. Ritchie presented the Resolution of Support for the IMD Multimodal Planning Grant for the City of Hickory. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Schlichting, the committee unanimously approved the resolution of support.

VI. LAPP 2026-Spring Call for New Projects: Mr. Odom presented the Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) 2026 Spring Call for New Projects. The committee reached consensus to release the call for projects for public comment.

NCDOT Update –

Division 11: Mr. Sizemore stated that no new updates were available.

Division 12: Mr. Jordan reported that resurfacing projects are

currently starting.

Division 13: Mr. Phillips provided construction updates, noting that paving is underway. He also reported that the Connelly Springs Road bridge project is clearing and currently working through permitting and phasing.

NCDOT-TPD: Mr. Crummy reported that there is no traffic forecast in progress, but the GHMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) has been submitted for adoption. He also noted that a new director is in place.

NCDOT-IMD: Ms. Elsheimer informed the committee that the multimodal planning grant closes on April 13th.

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members that TAC ethics forms are due on April 15th. She also reminded the committee about the upcoming Federal recertification audit and related surveys.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Vice Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 1:31 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blake Wright, MPO/TCC Vice Chair

Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary